

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. In the specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0034] have been amended as directed by the Examiner. These amendments introduce no new matter into the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-18 contain allowable subject matter.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification due to informalities in paragraphs [0032] and [0034]. The specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0034], has been amended to correct the informalities. The withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show the “positive and/or frictional fit” of the sealing cap “directly to the outer ring.” Claim 1 has been

amended to cancel the term “directly.” Withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112, first and second paragraphs

The Action rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, holding the specification to be nonenabling with respect to the claim limitation requiring that the sealing cap is fixed directly to the outer ring. This limitation has been canceled from the claims.

The Action further rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failure to provide antecedent basis for the recitation of “the components.” Claim 1 has been amended to replace “the components” with “spacer (4a, 4b) and sealing cap (13a, 13b).” Antecedent basis is provided for each of these elements.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 1 – 18 is respectfully requested.

Applicant: Schmidl et al.
Application No.: 10/565,087

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-18, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Schmidl et al.

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